

REMARKS

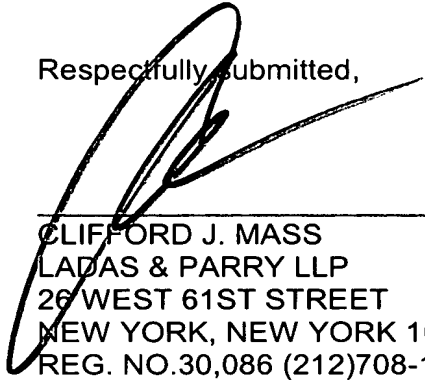
In response to the Official Action of 28 September 2006, wherein the Examiner has required an election between groups of claims, Applicants hereby elect with traverse to prosecute the claims of Group IV in the present application drawn to a vanadotungstic acid catalyst on a support.

This election is respectfully made with traverse as between the product claims of Groups I-V, because the claims recite that the claimed catalyst comprises a heteropoly acid selected from the recited Markush group and, in these circumstances, restriction is respectfully determined in accordance with the provisions of MPEP 803.02. In accordance with these provisions, where as here the members of the Markush group are sufficiently few in number or so closely related that a search and examination of the entire claim can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine all the members of the Markush group in the claim on the merits, even though they may be directed to independent and distinct inventions (see MPEP 803.02).

With respect to the method claims of Group VI (claims 9-17), the same have been amended to depend from the product claims. Upon an allowance of the product claims, Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of the method claims that depend from the allowed product claims in accordance with the provisions of MPEP 821.04.

Applicants have complied with the sole requirement in the aforementioned Official Action and respectfully request an early examination on the merits of at least the elected claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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